

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1984 - HB 2160

March 2, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes local education agencies (LEAs) to use the ACT and ACT Aspire suite of standardized tests in lieu of the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP); TNReady; and end-of-course (EOC) tests.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$160,300

Assumptions:

- Students that are juniors in high school currently receive a voucher from the state to take the ACT as the required 11th grade assessment pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-6001 (b). As such, the cost estimate for this bill is based on the use of the ACT Aspire suite of standardized tests.
- The state will not be required to purchase additional standardized tests.
- According to DOE, the combined variable cost associated with administering any TCAP, TNReady, or EOC test is approximately \$1.79 per student.
- The minimum cost associated with purchasing the online ACT Aspire test is approximately \$20 per student.
- Given the cost difference between the two, it would be cost prohibitive for an LEA to elect to administer the ACT Aspire test in lieu of administering TCAP, TNReady and EOC tests. As a result, it is estimated that few, if any, would elect to do so. For the purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed that LEAs will make the most cost effective decision. Therefore, any permissive change in local expenditures is estimated to be not significant.
- The DOE will still be required to prepare for the event an LEA will choose to opt into utilizing the ACT Aspire tests. This preparation would include performing certain activities at the state level to help administer two different suites of standardized tests each year. These duties include but are not limited to helping to prepare a test platform, setting testing windows, preparing for two annual regional meetings with LEAs that will use the ACT Aspire suite of tests each year; and communicating with the ACT Aspire test manufacturer. Given this, the DOE will require at least two additional employees; regardless of how many LEAs opt into using ACT Aspire suite of tests.

- The recurring increase in state expenditures for new personnel is estimated to be \$160,304 [(\$60,000 salary + \$20,152 benefits per employee) x 2].

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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